

## The Sun.

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## The Montana Case.

The finding of the Committee on Privileges and Elections in the case of Mr. WILLIAM A. CLARK of Montana, claiming the right to a seat in the United States Senate, was that Mr. CLARK's election was null and void on account of bribery and corrupt practices by his agents.

The resolution reported by this committee on April 23rd is as follows:

"Resolved, That WILLIAM A. CLARK was duly elected to a seat in the Senate of the United States by the Legislature of the State of Montana."

The Constitution makes the Senate the sole judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members.

Before the Senate acts on the resolution reported by the Committee on Privileges, Mr. CLARK "resigns" his seat; and upon receiving notice of this resignation, the Lieutenant-Governor of Montana, in the absence of the Governor from the State, assumes that a vacancy has thus been created and appoints Mr. CLARK to fill that vacancy.

Under the Constitution and laws of Montana, as we understand them, there can be no question as to the power of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Governor being away, to fill by appointment a vacancy created by the resignation of a United States Senator when the State Legislature is not at the time in session.

But was a vacancy created when Mr. CLARK "resigned"?

If the Senate now adopts the resolution reported by the committee which investigated the alleged election of Mr. CLARK by the Legislature, it will declare that Mr. CLARK was never elected. It will declare that in spite of his physical presence in the Senate chamber and the appearance of his name in the records of the session he has never been a member. It will declare, therefore, that no vacancy has arisen during the recess of the Legislature, the vacancy having continuously existed since Senator MASTERS' term expired and the Legislature failed duly and legally to elect a successor. And on all these questions the judgment of the Senate is final.

In the case of Mr. QUAY, the Senate has recently affirmed the principle that the failure of a Legislature to elect a Senator does not create a vacancy affording an opportunity for Executive appointment.

Mr. CLARK's friends will maintain that the precedent of the Quay case does not apply in the present instance, inasmuch as the Montana Legislature, unlike the Pennsylvania Legislature, adjourned supposing that it had elected a Senator.

The distinction is fine, finer than the performance by which Mr. CLARK and his friends have sought to nullify the finding of the Committee and to anticipate the action of the Senate.

Thus the Montana case, as it now stands, presents a novel question of technicalities, apart from its political aspects and psychological interest.

If Mr. CLARK believes that he has been wronged and that the people of Montana want him to represent them in the United States Senate, it would be better for him to go home and begin all over again, selecting his agents by means of a competitive campaign in ethics, and remembering CASSA's wife.

## Lord Salisbury and Ireland.

The speech delivered by Lord SALISBURY at a meeting of the Primrose League, not only provoked the Irish Nationalists but has perplexed his own political supporters. Even if there were good ground for the analogy which he has used to draw between the Boer republics and Ireland, he chose a singularly inopportune moment for proclaiming it, while, as a matter of fact, the reason assigned for refusing local autonomy to Irishmen would be equally applicable to such self-governing dependencies as Canada and Australia.

The great majority of Englishmen, without distinction of party, consider that the kind of service rendered by Irish soldiers in the British Crown in South Africa have borne impressive witness to the loyalty of the Irish people, considered as a whole, and that, consequently, the visit lately made by Queen VICTORIA to Dublin was well timed and well inspired. It seems that Lord SALISBURY must hold different opinions on both points; otherwise, he would scarcely select the present occasion to cast the gravest doubt on the trustworthiness of Irishmen. He declares that the violent hostility exhibited toward England by the Boers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State is precisely what would be encountered in Ireland had either of Mr. GLADSTONE's Home Rule bills become a law. That is to say, the bravery and loyalty which has been so abundantly shown by the Boers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State is precisely what would be encountered in Ireland had either of Mr. GLADSTONE's Home Rule bills become a law. That is to say, the bravery and loyalty which has been so abundantly shown by the Boers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State is precisely what would be encountered in Ireland had either of Mr. GLADSTONE's Home Rule bills become a law.

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were concerned. There is, therefore, no ground for the alleged analogy between the Boers on the one hand and Canadian or Australian or Irish subjects of the British Crown on the other. Because the Transvaal and the Orange Free State have employed their military resources to resist encroachments on their independence, it does not follow that Ireland or Canada or Australia would use its military powers to sever the union with the British Crown. That is the assumption, however, which is made by Lord SALISBURY, who did not hesitate to add that the attitude of caution and suspicion which, he said, ought to be maintained toward Ireland should be extended, also, to all the parts of the British Empire. He warned his auditors of the Primrose League that "recent events in South Africa had proved that practical independence could not be permitted anywhere in the Empire."

Lord SALISBURY provided such independence involved opportunities for arraying hostile forces against the Imperial Government. "Unquestionably, the almost complete autonomy which is now possessed by the Dominion of Canada, and which will be presently acquired by the Commonwealth of Australia, involves the right to call out and arm large bodies of soldiers, which, under conceivable circumstances, such as an attempt to restrict materially their powers of home rule, might be arrayed against the mother country. Lord SALISBURY means, if he means anything, that neither the Canadian Dominion nor the Australian Commonwealth ought to have the privilege of creating a standing army, or a considerable body of militia, although it is certain that, sooner than renounce that privilege, both Canada and Australia would prefer to fight."

In his speech before the Primrose League, Lord SALISBURY went out of his way to offend, not only Ireland but the great self-governing colonies which have just given striking proof of their loyalty to the British Crown. It was not the act of a far-sighted statesman, or even of an astute politician, and we are forced to conclude that Lord SALISBURY's usefulness as a party leader is well-nigh gone.

## No Barons in Congress.

The defeat in the Greenback convention of the author of "The Science of Selling" and of the bones and lady of the "Committee on Distribution" gives cause for congratulation in more than one quarter.

The respectable Republican voters of the Fifth Indiana district are spared the unpleasant alternative of bolting their party's nomination or going to the polls to deposit their ballots for a candidate with a personality and methods at present so well understood as are those of RICHARDSON'S publisher. The retiring Congressman, Mr. GEORGE W. FARIS, whose indefinite leave of absence from duty "on account of important business" will probably now terminate, has not been altogether an acceptable representative, but a BARCEUS in the House would have been much worse for the interests and credit of the district. After an extraordinary contest the Republicans of Vigo, Vermilion and the other five counties of this important district have proved that their organization is not available as a stepping-stone for any self-promoter who may migrate thither when his political aspirations have encountered defeat elsewhere.

The Republican party at large is spared the heavy burden which would have been imposed upon it by the nomination of the business associate of RICHARDSON and the organizer and proprietor of the "Committee on Distribution." This is a year when the party cannot afford to lose a single seat in the next House. It cannot afford to adopt scandals of Democratic origin. The district upon which BARCEUS hoped and tried to inflict himself is the closest in Indiana, having been carried by the Republicans two years ago by only 252 plurality. It is no secret that the Democrats of the Fifth Indiana district desired nothing so much as BARCEUS's nomination. They foresaw that his success in the convention meant inevitably their easy triumph in November, and like sensible politicians they decided to lie low during the preliminary contest, reserving their ammunition until the Republicans should nominate him.

The country, too, irrespective of party, has escaped an experience more or less humiliating to everybody who cares for the dignity of Congress. BARCEUS's defeat at the polls would have been about as certain as anything can be in politics; all the same, it would not have been an edifying spectacle to see this cheeky person running, with the permission of one of the great political organizations, for an office wherein, if by any accident elected, he would have a legislator's vote on the management of the public printing and on the distribution of Government documents.

BARCEUS's previous appearance in politics was in this town two years ago. He then figured in the irregular or anti-Pull organization styling itself "The Republicans of the County of New York," and aspired to the nomination of Congress in the Fourth district. The result of his enterprise was somewhat ludicrous. It was such as to lead him to conclude that perhaps Indiana offered a more favorable field than New York for BARCEUS's statesmanship.

BARCEUS was mistaken.

## The Difficulties of the Pulpit.

At another meeting of the alumni of the Union Theological Seminary, held on Tuesday evening, another preacher made much of the "difficulties of modern preaching." He was the Rev. Dr. HILLIS of Brooklyn, and first among them he put the "increase of knowledge," which makes the audience more critical, for "a congregation fresh from the pages of the greatest authors in literature who have written in a Christian spirit expects the preacher to equal those great authors."

Now, is this so? Is such critical knowledge relatively more extensive now than it used to be when the pulpit was more powerful? As we pointed out only lately, the results of recent examinations at our colleges and universities do not indicate careful reading of the greatest authors, and the contemporary literary output is not suggestive of stalwart intellectual training.

So far from the preacher of this time suffering from that sort of criticism more sharply than formerly it is probable that actually he is subjected to it in a less measure. Indifference to his message or disregard of his authority to deliver the message are rather the obstacles against which he has to contend. A feeling seems to prevail, and it has justification in the case of the Rev. Dr. HILLIS, for instance, that the preacher has no definite doctrine to proclaim, but that he is as much at sea as to the great questions of which he essays to preach as are the confused minds of his congregation. When the preacher had a definite creed and system of theology to set forth, as explanatory of the

mystery of life and death and as offering the only hope of eternal salvation, he commanded more respect even from those who rejected his doctrine than he does now when he makes evident the uncertainty of his belief and treats his hearers to logical inconsistencies. He is a captain who undertakes to sail the ship without chart or compass. He cannot produce conviction, for he has no conviction of his own and is put to his wits' end to contrive literary tricks and surprises which will plique interest.

Dr. HILLIS illustrated in his speech of Tuesday evening the difficulties into which the pulpit gets when it throws overboard the old body of faith and dogma, on the plea that they are inconsistent with the theory of God as a loving and merciful Father. Having cast them away, how is the preacher going to explain the sorrow, the suffering, the inequality of human life and the inexorable operation of the laws of the universe? Dr. HILLIS says that "the old atheist and materialistic evolutions are identical in their premises and corollaries with the old Calvinistic," meaning thereby, we assume, that the two are identical in proclaiming the absolute sovereignty of Divine or of natural law, whereas he would start out with the premise "that the freedom of man and the sovereignty of God are reconciled in the Father whose name is love." But may not the critical listener who, he says, now increases the difficulties of the preacher, ask him to show where or when love stays or affects the operations of sovereign law, or how Dr. HILLIS or any other preacher can assert that there is such interference with the operation of the laws of the universe without asserting the authority of religious dogma as supreme above the demonstration of science?

Except men believe in a God of love as dogmatically taught, where do they get the evidence of such a Divine sovereignty? What is there in natural experience to indicate that the stern laws of the universe are ever restrained in their merciless operation? Naturally and scientifically the sovereignty of the world is pitiless, unvarying, inexorable, and only by the eye of faith in religious dogma is there discernible in it any element of what men call love. To believe that the government of the universe is paternal, by a "Father whose name is love," it is necessary to believe in the authority of a creed of supernatural dictation, since our mere human knowledge can find only emotionless law.

Accordingly, the only conviction produced in reasonable minds by criticisms of the old creeds like those of Dr. HILLIS is that such pulpits are abandoning the only support on which the religious theory of the government of the universe can rest; for that sovereignty, as naturally discerned, is a merciless absolutism.

## Two Men With but a Single Speech.

The Hon. JONATHAN DONNELLY was nominated for Vice-President by the Populists at Cincinnati last week, after being first recommended for President. He was presented to the convention by the Hon. PATRICK H. RAHILLY of Minnesota, whose thrilling eloquence in no wise obscured the minuteness and accuracy with which he described the statesman for whom he advocated.

Mr. RAHILLY evidently saw in Mr. DONNELLY a worthy parallel of the Democrat who twelve years ago was nominated for President by St. Louis by the Hon. DANIEL DUNNE of Ohio, and, therefore, modestly representing his own powers, he made use of Mr. DONNELLY's nominating speech, skillfully making the little changes required by the minor differences between the candidates. We give the two speeches, indicating Mr. RAHILLY's emendations by the use of italics:

**PORTO RICANS PLEASED WITH NEW TARIFF.**

William R. Corwin, Secretary of the Central Porto Rican Relief Committee and an officer of the Merchants' Association, who has just returned from Porto Rico, says that the sugar and tobacco growers are much pleased with the new tariff. He says that the planters are much pleased with the new tariff, and that the coffee growers are much pleased with the new tariff.

**DECLARATION DAY UNIFORMS.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Regarding "Doughboy" communication to your daily critic, the Major Gen. Roe's order to the National Guard, would like to state that it can be no way construed to be an insult to the A. R. N. "Doughboy" must have been a mistake. The order was to the effect that the men who were killed or wounded in our last war were to be given full dress uniforms with white collars, that the men who were killed or wounded in our last war were to be given full dress uniforms with white collars, that the men who were killed or wounded in our last war were to be given full dress uniforms with white collars.

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It is apparent from the news from Kromaat that the disappearance of the Boers at the last moment was a good deal of a disappointment to Lord Roberts who had made all his dispositions for the final battle. The first stories of their generalization now turn out to be groundless, though there was a certain appearance of probability in them when sent with official authority. As matters actually are, a large British army in the Free State is engaged in looking for its enemy, with only the assurance that the Boers are on the Vaal, the only advantage moving about in a manner to cause dispute as to the safety of the communications should they succeed in breaking away from the south again.

From Mafeking the news is altogether uncertain. Had anything decisive happened, though the Boers are reported to be on the Vaal, having to come over a British cable, might be delayed for a few days, but had the relief effected, no time would be lost in making it public. There seems, however, no doubt that there has been some severe fighting at Mafeking, but without decisive result, though the Boers are reported to be on the Vaal.

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